

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4693
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2007
PRIVATE TELECOM OPERATORS
Deshmukh Shri Subhash Sureshchandra

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the private basic telecom operators have failed in fulfilling their obligation of providing telephone facilities in the rural areas;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to make the provisions of IT and Telecom agreements more stringent;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor;

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) & (b) All the Basic Private Service Operators (BPSOs), who had roll-out obligation for providing Village Public Telephones (VPTs) on the basis of old licenses, have migrated to Unified Access Service License (UASL) in November, 2003. According to the guidelines of UASL, there is no requirement of mandatory coverage of rural areas by the licenses. The requirement of access in rural areas is now met from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). All telecom service providers except value added service providers like Internet Service Providers (ISPs), Voice Mail and E-Mail etc. are contributing Universal Service Levy (USL) @ 5% of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) for meeting Universal Service Obligation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.